

Dining Room Prayer Time

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“WHO IS JESUS”

Child/teen to lead by following purple instructions and reading the blue instructions.

Setup Sacred space

Before the prayer. Spend 20 minutes collecting 3 or 4 items to set up the sacred space. Such as a candle, cross, image and flower or some greenery. Set this up on the dining table in your house. Choose a time that everyone can come together. You will also need colouring-in-pencils for the prayer. Print this worksheet for each person in your house. Ask an adult to light the candle at the start.



1. Start

Let us put ourselves in God's presence by focusing on our breathing.

Breath in..... Breath out..... *(repeat this 4 times)*

As we light the candle we make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

2. Gospel

Matthew Chapter 15 verse 21 to 28

Child/teen to read -

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

3. Gospel Reflection

Child/teen to read -

Why did Jesus ask Peter the question, “Who do people say that I am?”

Jesus asks this question in a non-Jewish Roman town of Caesarea Philippi. The people of Caesarea Philippi did not believe in the one all-encompassing God. They had many little gods.

Peter's own answer “You are the Christ, the Son of God”. This has more than one meaning. The word “Christ” is not Jesus' last name. Rather, the word Christ means “anointed one”. The Jewish people were waiting for an “anointed one” sent from God to save them from the Roman persecution. Jesus is the “anointed one”.

The second title “Son of God”, indicates how important Jesus was. The Roman Emperor was also known as “a Son of God”. Peter politically challenged the power of the Roman emperor by making Jesus just as important. No wonder Jesus says to Peter, “tell no one”. He did not want to get his friend in trouble with the Romans. Or maybe there is a deeper purpose to hiding Jesus' identity? Maybe we are to discover who Jesus is in our own way? Maybe we are to discover Jesus through our own personal contact with Jesus' followers? The important thing is not the answer, but the question. Through questioning we discover a deeper reality of who we are. When we discover who we are, we will discover God.

4. Second Reading

Child/teen to read the Gospel a second time

5. Colour

Colour in the following picture

6. Questions



Spend a few minutes completing the following questions, write and the discuss.

1. Why does Jesus ask the question “who is Jesus”?
2. What is Peter’s answer?
3. Jesus has other titles to like “Lamb of God”, “Saviour”, “Shepherd”, “Prince of Peace” and “Teacher”. Which is your favourite? Explain why.
4. Why is it important to believe in God?
5. (parents) – Who has inspired your own faith in God? Can you think of a specific person?

7. Prayers of the Faithful

We ask that God receives the following prayers:

A. We pray we might go on a journey which strengthens our faith in God. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

B. We pray we might be patient with people who doubt God. May we allow them to freely be themselves. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

C. Does anyone else have a prayer they would like to share? *PAUSE*.....

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

8. Final Prayer

Dear God we ask that you receive all our prayers as we pray the Our Father together.

ALL - Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

As we blow the candle out we ask that God remains with us.

We make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”